and Rural Development (NABARD) are operating several schemes, such as special capital scheme. Seed Capital Scheme, National Equity Fund Scheme. Soft Loan Assistance Fund for Margin Money, etc. for providing equity type of assistance for meeting the needs of the small scale and tiny sectors in setting up of projects

News-Item Captioned 'Concern Over Mazars'

981 SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times of the 9th September, 1987 under the caption 'Concern over mazars' on Kutch border; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have conducted any inquiry into the matter; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to check such anti-national activity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Government have seen the relevant news item.

According the information received from the Government of Gujarat, a 'mazar' known as Bhakarsha Peer Dargah is situated at about 25 Kms. from Nakhatrana Taluka near Mulu Dessapur village and is about 60 Kms. from Khavda No strategic point is located near the 'mazar'. A Pak national named Ghaush Mohmed Alisha was residing there with his family. The State Government received information that Ghaush Mohmed Alisha was originally a Pak national and residing in the area illegally since 1975. He was deported in March 1983 alongwith his family. The State authorities had, however no information about any anti-national activity on his part.

The State Government have further informed that a survey which was conducted recently indicated that no 'mazar' or Dargah or similar place of worship has come up in the last six months. According to the State Government, identity cards are to be issued to the people of the border area of Kutch district to curb such prejudicial activities

Loan advanced by the Punjab and Sind Bank to Private Firm

982 SHRI M. S GURUPADASWAMY :

DR. BAPU KALDATE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any limit for the nationalised banks to open letter of credit for their customers;

(b) whether Government have taken note of the news-item in Navbharat Times (Hindi), New Delhi dated the 29th September, 1987 that the Chairman and other Bank officials of Punjab and Sind Bank have loaned over Rs 30,60,00,000 to a private firm;

(c) whether it is a fact that a number of private firms have also been given loans of over several crores;

(d) whether these advance/loans have been recovered; and

(e) if not, whether any legal action has been taken to recover these loans ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY) : (a) Nationalised banks open letters of credit on behalf of their constituents after assessing the commercial viability of the proposal and in accordance with the norms and criteria laid down by the bank covering security, margin etc., and in accordance with the general directions issued by Reserve Bank of India from time to time. The various authorities within a bank can open Letters of Credit upto the amounts delegated to them

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The Punjab & Sind Bank has reported that it has sanctioned loans for varying amounts to its borrowers, in-

cluding private firms, after appraisal of the projects proposed. Repayments are to be made by borrowers according to the repayment schedules fixed for the purpose. Whenever any account becomes overdue and repayments are not received from the borrower, the bank takes remedial action for recoveries including filing of suits, sale of securities, invocation of guarantees where considered necessary

Revision of Rules Regarding Foreign Travel Scheme

983 SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank has revised its rules regarding the Foreign Travel Scheme; and

(b) if so, what are the changes made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K GADHVI) : (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India has not revised recently its rules regarding the Foreign Travel Scheme (FTS). Some changes were, however, introduced in the scheme with effect from 7th April, 1986 These are :—

(i) FTS as well as NTS will be available once in 3 calendar years instead of once in two calendar years.

(ii) If the visit is only two countries where NTS is applicable, the travellers will be eligible to apply for exchange quota only under NTS and not under FTS

(iii) Minor children upto the age of 12 will be eligible to draw exchange at half the normal FTS/NTS quota

(iv) If a traveller holding a renewed passport is unable to produce his previous passport, he will be eligible to avail of exchange under the scheme only on completion of two full calendar years covered under his current passport.

(v) It has been reiterated that it is absolutely necessary for authorised dealers and full-fledged money changers to insist on personal appearance and identification of the travellers in case of sale of foreign exchange under FTS/NTS.

Closure of Nationalised Banks

984. DR. BAPU KAIDATE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that Government have taken a decision to the effect that nationalised banks who do not function upto Government or the people's expectation would be closed down·

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether any such proposal is pending with Government;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) whether any of such banks have been closed down ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) to (e) There is no such proposal to close down any nationalised bank. It is the continuing endeavour of all the public sector banks to improve their performance to meet expectations of the people. Government/Reserve Bank of India continually monitor the progress achieved by these banks in all aspects of their operations such as deposit mobilisation, rural lending, credit to Priority Sectors and to Weaker Sections, Customer Service, Housekeeping and Profitability, for which they have drawn up Action Plans

Transfer of areas between Punjab and Haryana

985 SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN :

DR (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI .

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the present position regarding the transfer of areas between Punjab and Haryana on the basis of the recommendations of Mathew Commission, Venkataramiah Commission and Desai Commission ?